Increase in earnings of Railways

1292. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the main factors leading to increase of passenger traffic, loading earnings in Railways in the recent past;

(b) whether they are not due to external factors or other factors rather than that of Railways; and

(c) whether the increase in question would be maintained and further increased for the years to come?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Main factors leading to increase of passenger traffic, loading earning in Railways in recent past are:—

(i) Introduction of new trains;
(ii) Augmentation of load of existing trains;
iii) Running of special trains as and when required;
(iv) Extensive ticket checking drives;
(v) To ease ticket distribution introduction of ticketing through internet, Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS), opening additional windows where required, etc.
(vi) Various new incentive schemes introduced by Railways like Dynamic Pricing Policy, the Engine on load etc.

(b) External factors like economic improvement also helped in improvements in Railways.

(c) All efforts are made by Railways to maintain present level of traffic and earnings with further efforts to achieve higher growth in passenger/freight segments.

Formation of new South Western Zone

1293. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) considering the fact that the Salem Division has been formed, whether Government would consider the formation of a new zone to be called the South Western Zone, consisting of Trivandrum, Palghat, which would consist